

hospital community, area departments of health, EMS officials, the military, unions, private transport companies, federal agencies, and community activists, among others, were in attendance. Discussion centered on challenges faced by EMS services such as national paramedic shortages, EMT & paramedic training and retention, hospital surge capacity, and emergency preparedness. Ongoing collaboration and regional cooperation to meet challenges in EMS service were the themes of the day. “What are we all here to do?” Chief Thompson asked. “Start a real conversation. Begin to identify common priorities, and common ground. Set the foundation for ongoing open discussion of common jurisdictional challenges and for more regional collaboration.”

With the help of COG, GWU, MIEMSS, the Northern Virginia EMS Council, and our other partners, we look forward to the region hosting more of these events. A special thank you to everyone from DCFEMS who participated in this event.

Fire Prevention

Kudos to Patricia Everett for receiving, through our partnership with AFLAC Insurance, a donation of 300 smoke alarms to the department.

Voicemail Compliance

A big round of applause for the DCFEMS staff that tested perfectly on their Voicemail compliance testing! For the 2nd Quarter of 2004, we would like to thank the following:

Fredricka Smith	DFC Thomas Hurley
Robert Jones	Don Williams
Carmen Ealy-Tate	EMS Battalion Chief Jerry
Angela Turner	Stack
Otis Coleman	Gwen Smith
Deborah Miller	

Remember to always keep your voicemail compliant. The five elements that must be included in your outgoing message are: name, title, division/agency information, a referral number for emergencies, and that you will return

all calls within 24 hours or one business day. **Especially with the summer vacation season upon us, remember to leave an extended absence greeting with all of the above information and the dates of days that you will be away from the office. **

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Licia Spinelli in the Office of Customer Service at (202) 673-3677 or licia.spinelli@dc.gov.

NBC4 Safe and Secure

Fire/EMS Chief Thompson, along with members of the Fire Prevention Division, Communications and Public Information, joined NBC4 on June 29 for the launch of their new public education campaign Safe and Secure. The campaign focuses on important everyday safety issues for the home, family, vehicles, computer & internet use, public safety, and the environment. DCFEMS fire Safe House, 911 Simulator, and fireworks safety displays were at NBC4’s studios for families to visit.

DCFEMS 4-1-1

Inspector Edgar Alvear has returned from Kandahar, Afghanistan after a one year tour of duty as an MP with the 274 Military Police Washington Army National Guard.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Jessee Everett and family for opening “Comfort House,” a residential group home for at risk teenage girls.

Retired Firefighter George R. Tavenner, Sr., passed away June 20. Firefighter Tavenner was appointed July 2, 1942 at Engine Company No. 28 and retired from Truck Company No. 11 on April 1, 1968.

Retired Firefighter Eugene Hunter passed away on June 25. Firefighter Hunter was appointed June 9, 1958 and retired from Truck Company No. 1 on January 5, 1986.



BEACON

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On April 27, 2004, two fire trucks crashed at an intersection in a Chicago suburb while responding to a mutual aid incident involving a confirmed garage fire. The crash left one firefighter dead and another in critical condition. Photo by AP World Wide Photos

Message from the Chief

A crash like this one is heartbreaking and preventable. All of our personnel must exercise extreme caution on the job. That means slowing at every intersection even if the light is green. Remember: Before you can save a life, you must get there safely first.

Story by Mary Marshall, IAFC On Scene, reprinted by permission

“With all due respect, this makes no sense! There is no justifiable reason this type of thing should have happened,” said Chief I. David Daniels, chair of the IAFC Health and Safety Committee. “We will be addressing these types of issues in our committee response to the NFFF report, but until we as fire chiefs begin to take decisive action to change our industry, these types of sad situations aren’t going to go away. It’s going to take personal and organizational accountability along with a shift in fire service culture.”

A statement from Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, supported by the IAFC, said, “An investigation into the accident’s cause is ongoing by several law enforcement agencies. Upon conclusion of the investigation’s factual findings,

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★★★ Adrian H. Thompson,
Fire/EMS Chief
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov. Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188

responsibility will be drawn ... At this time in the tragic accident, the most appropriate required actions are to provide compassion and respect for the deceased and his survivors."

HIPPA

HIPPA's security rule requires that awareness and training programs include periodic security reminders. A common implementation approach is the display of electronic alerts within computer applications containing protected health information (PHI). Attention-getting script that is colorful and rotated keeps privacy in the reader's mind, and audits demonstrate whether warnings are heeded.

Protection of hard copy PHI is equally important and more difficult to monitor. But some creative covered entities have found a way. By making unannounced visits to units of all kinds – from reception and registration areas to treatment and patient care units – surprise reminders can be planted. Placing brightly colored, removable stickers on inappropriately exposed paper PHI, immediately reminds responsible staff to renew vigilance in guarding patient privacy.

If these "PHI rounds" are well organized, findings can be captured, handled as performance improvement activities for action and follow-through and used to demonstrate ongoing monitoring of policy effectiveness.

New Cell Phone Law

Effective July 1, 2004 a new law went into effect in Washington, DC banning cell phone use while driving. Cell phones may now only be used while driving if a hands-free device is employed. This law applies to ALL drivers, including emergency vehicle operators. MPD has advised that DCFEMS drivers will be held to the same standards as other drivers. Members will be held accountable for violation of this law.

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) needs at DCFEMS are provided by the Management of Information Technology Services division. MITS will use this space to provide updates and important user information about IT projects in DCFEMS.

The MITS division's mission is to provide a stable and scalable information technology infrastructure and to plan, manage, implement, integrate, and maintain mission-critical Information Technology services and activities that support DCFEMS strategic programs.

Our MITS division currently has nine full-time employees: Devin Griffin, Director; Aldolphus Gains, Program Analyst; Edward Leonard, Program Analyst, Rajunder Kaur, Program Analyst; Shane Allen, Program Support Specialist, Ozell Cooper, Network Services Specialist; Howard Wade, Network Services Specialist; Michael Williamson, Network Services Specialist; and Robert Tate, Customer Support Specialist.

MITS looks forward to serving DCFEMS and providing you with excellent customer and information technology services.



Members of Rescue Squad I observe the passing of the caisson carrying former President Ronald Reagan to the Capitol June 11. High temperatures kept DCFEMS busy helping people suffering from heat related illness among the thousands who lined Constitution Avenue, NW..



WWII Memorial Dedication Ceremonies — Medics Johnny Baccus and Lucky Arevelo tend to a 93-year-old man who collapsed during the dedication of the National World War II Memorial May 29. More than 30 people were transported during the event

Arson Task Force

On June 1, the District's Arson Task Force, which includes members from DCFEMS, ATF, MPD, and the US Attorney's Office, began operating 24 hours a day with the exception of Friday night and Saturdays. This new scheduling plan will result in quicker on-scene responses and earlier investigation in arson cases. The Task Force will assign members to the ATF headquarters and at the FIU office.

Training

Cadets visited the National Fire Academy (NFA) on April 21. Their visit included a tour of the facility and the chance to view some computerized fire ground scenarios in NFA's simulation laboratory. Cadets also met with Dr. Denis Onieal, superintendent of the Academy, who spoke about the value of DCFEMS cadet program and the importance of continuing career development in the fire service. Dr. Onieal encouraged them to pursue career development opportunities at the NFA.

On May 15, cadets assisted Councilmember Vincent Orange with his Annual Ward 5 Picnic and Spring Clean Up event at Langdon Park. They served food for hundreds of Ward 5 residents.

Class 334 included four DCFEMS paramedics who are now probationary firefighters: Olufunke Akinmboni E-10-3, Todd A. Bianchi E-30-4, Ellen S. Kurland E-6-2, and Francis Pierce E-13-4.



DCFEMS members should be aware that, in the event a task force member reports to the scene of a fire, that person may be a DCFEMS Fire Investigator, ATF agent or MPD officer.

Regional EMS Forum

On May 19, Fire/EMS Chief Adrian H. Thompson, Medical Director Fernando Daniels, III and DC Fire & EMS were host to the area's first Regional EMS Forum at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. DC Mayor Anthony A. Williams delivered welcoming remarks to the nearly 200 stakeholders from across the National Capitol Region who attended the event.

Working in partnership with the George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Municipal Management, we reached a much broader community than just Fire/EMS departments. Representatives from the

[...continued on back](#)



Members of Recruit Class 334, and Paramedic Reciprocity 6-R graduated June 10 in a ceremony held at the Training Academy.